

§ 322. Desert lands defined; question how determined

All lands exclusive of timber lands and mineral lands which will not, without irrigation, produce some agricultural crop, shall be deemed desert lands, within the meaning of sections 321 to 323, 325, and 327 to 329 of this title, which fact shall be ascertained by proof of two or more credible witnesses under oath, whose affidavits shall be filed in the land office in which said tract of land may be situated.

The determination of what may be considered desert land shall be subject to the decision and regulation of the Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate.

(Mar. 3, 1877, ch. 107, §§2, 3, 19 Stat. 377; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

CODIFICATION

The first paragraph of this section is from section 2 of act Mar. 3, 1877.

The second paragraph of this section is from the last clause of section 3 of act Mar. 3, 1877. The first clause of section 3 is incorporated in section 323 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

“Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate” substituted for “Commissioner of the General Land Office” on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946, which abolished General Land Office and Commissioner thereof and transferred functions of General Land Office to a new agency in Department of the Interior to be known as Bureau of Land Management. See section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

SECTION AS UNAFFECTED BY SUBMERGED LANDS ACT

Provisions of this section as not amended, modified or repealed by the Submerged Lands Act, see section 1303 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 321, 323, 324, 326, 328, 329, 333, 641, 1303 of this title; title 16 section 460iii-2.

§ 323. Application to certain States

Sections 321 to 323, 325, and 327 to 329 of this title shall only apply to and take effect in the States of California, Colorado, Oregon, Nevada, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, and North and South Dakota.

(Mar. 3, 1877, ch. 107, §§3, 8, 19 Stat. 377; Mar. 3, 1891, ch. 561, §2, 26 Stat. 1097; Jan. 6, 1921, ch. 12, 41 Stat. 1086.)

CODIFICATION

Section is from the first clause of section 3 of act Mar. 3, 1877, and the first clause of section 8 of act Mar. 3, 1877, as added by act Mar. 3, 1891.

The second clauses of section 3 and 8 of act Mar. 3, 1877, are incorporated in the second paragraph of section 322 and section 325 of this title, respectively.

The first clause of section 3 of act Mar. 3, 1877, provided that “this act shall only apply to and take effect in the States of California, Oregon and Nevada, and the Territories of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico and Dakota”.

The first clause of section 8 of act Mar. 3, 1877, as added by act Mar. 3, 1891, provided for the inclusion of Colorado.

The Territories of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico and Dakota have become States since the enactment of act Mar. 3, 1877, the Territory of Dakota being divided, to form the States of North and South Dakota.

SECTION AS UNAFFECTED BY SUBMERGED LANDS ACT

Provisions of this section as not amended, modified or repealed by the Submerged Lands Act, see section 1303 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 321, 322, 324, 326, 328, 329, 333, 641, 1303 of this title; title 16 section 460iii-2.

§ 324. Assignment of entries

No assignment after March 28, 1908, of an entry made under sections 321 to 323, 325, and 327 to 329 of this title shall be allowed or recognized, except it be to an individual who is shown to be qualified to make entry under said sections of the land covered by the assigned entry, and such assignments may include all or part of an entry; but no assignment to or for the benefit of any corporation or association shall be authorized or recognized.

(Mar. 28, 1908, ch. 112, §2, 35 Stat. 52.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 449 of this title.

§ 325. Resident citizenship of State as qualification for entry

Excepting in the State of Nevada, no person shall be entitled to make entry of desert lands unless he be a resident citizen of the State or Territory in which the land sought to be entered is located.

(Mar. 3, 1877, ch. 107, §8, as added Mar. 3, 1891, ch. 561, §2, 26 Stat. 1097; amended Jan. 6, 1921, ch. 12, 41 Stat. 1086.)

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of the second clause of section 8 of act Mar. 3, 1877, as added by act Mar. 3, 1891. The first clause of section 8 of act Mar. 3, 1877, is incorporated in section 323 of this title.

Act Jan. 6, 1921, inserted introductory exception phrase.

SECTION AS UNAFFECTED BY SUBMERGED LANDS ACT

Provisions of this section as not amended, modified or repealed by the Submerged Lands Act, see section 1303 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 321, 322, 323, 324, 326, 328, 329, 333, 641, 1303 of this title; title 16 section 460iii-2.

§ 326. Unsurveyed lands not subject to entry; preferential right of entry after survey

From and after March 28, 1908, the right to make entry of desert lands under the provisions of sections 321 to 323, 325, and 327 to 329 of this title, shall be restricted to surveyed public lands of the character contemplated by said sections, and no such entries of unsurveyed lands shall be allowed or made of record: *Provided, however*, That any individual qualified to make entry of desert lands under said sections who has, prior